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MAUD HEATH'S

CAUSEY.

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BY THE

REV. J. E. JACKSON,

Rector of Tring-Belmont, Wilts.

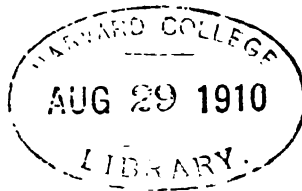
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DEVIZES:

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## Maud Heath's Causey.

To have a walk that shall be dry and available in all weathers, a *real* walk, not the mere distance for a turn or two on a garden terrace, but a good constitutional stretch, away into the country, nine miles there and back; to have this always firm and free from mud—*non cuius homini contingit*—does not fall to every man's share. Still more rare is it to find such a privilege free from the cost of maintenance to those who do enjoy it. But these united comforts have fallen to the lot of four contiguous and favoured parishes in North Wilts: Chippenham, Langley Burrell, Tytherton-Kellaways, and Bremhill: for which they may thank the foresight and public spirit of "that *worthy benefactress* MAUD HEATH."

Thomas Fuller the witty does not indeed mention her amongst the "Worthies of Wilts"; but well did she, and well did any one deserve that name, who in days when roads were "founderous," rivers had to be forded, and footpaths were none at all, did so much *pro bono publico* as to make a bridge, a road, or a causey.<sup>1</sup> These are in more senses than one essentially amongst the first steps towards the civilization of a country. Without them, there is no comfortable communication, no encouragement to the interchange of society, of capital, or of traffic.

A curious illustration of the great importance anciently attached to the duty of providing safe and easy public thoroughfares, is supplied to us in the history of names. Amongst other titles borne by the Pope, is that of "Pontifex Maximus" which in its original sense means literally neither more nor less than the Head Bridge-BUILDER. And the way in which, according to received authorities, this title has descended to the Pope is this. In the earliest days of heathen Rome the duty of controlling the arrangement for public

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<sup>1</sup> Thus the word is always spelled in old writers: and perhaps correctly: being nearer than "cause-way" to the French "*chaussée*," (a pitched road), from which it is derived.

passages, more especially that of constructing bridges, fell upon the priests, being at that time the persons of most varied education, and probably best qualified by engineering talent to undertake it. There was one bridge more particularly, the celebrated wooden one called the "Sublician," connecting, and being then the only one that did connect, the opposite sides of the Tiber. This means of communication, so precious both as a passage and a defence, was placed under the special care of the Priests who took, as it is said, from this charge their name of Pontifices. When Christianity succeeded Heathenism, it was thought politic to retain in many instances existing names: and so it has come to pass that the Chief Bishop of Christian Rome, still continuing after 24 centuries to use the Title of PONTIFF, represents in fact the Trustees of the very bridge of our old school friend Horatius Cocles! The Title survives, but the Trust has expired. For after long assault and frequent reparation, yellow Tiber washed the bridge bodily away a 1000 years ago, and it has never been rebuilt.

How, and under what authority, in our own country, road and bridge making was conducted in early times, would be a curious subject of inquiry. Acts of Parliament, turnpike trusts, highway rates, and the like, are of course, comparatively modern inventions. Royal commissions in times past may have controlled the king's highways: but the original making, even of many of them, certainly of many of the passages and causeys which are found upon them, was no doubt owing in great measure to the efforts of individuals. Now and then a great person would be drowned or nearly so, and then there would be improvement. In 1252, a Queen of England who had suffered a cold bath in crossing the Warwickshire Avon at Stratford, as soon as ever she had escaped from the water, hastened to assign a meadow for the perpetual sustentation of a bridge. This was perhaps the same that was afterwards improved by Hugh Clopton, Mayor of London, "who made (says Leland) a sumptuous bridge and causey there. There had been but a poor one of timber and no causey to come to it; whereby many poor folks and others, refused to come to Stratford when Avon was up, or coming thither stood in jeopardy of life."



The great causey and arched bridges that divide Barnstaple from Plympton, in Devon, owe their origin to a similar accident. "A merchant of London called Stawford chanced to be at Barnstaple to buy cloth, and saw a woman riding to come over by the low salte marsh from Plympton towards Berstaple, and the tide came so sore in, that she could not pass: and crying for help, no man durst come to her; and so she was drown'd. Then Stawford took the prior of Berstaple a certain sum of money to begin this causey, and the bridges, and after paid for the performing it."<sup>1</sup>

There is, or used to be, hanging up in the hall of St. Helen's Hospital at Abingdon, a long ditty in praise of the builder of Culham Bridge, near that town: one verse in modern phrase ran thus:—

King Harry the fifth in his fow-erth year  
Hath found for his folk a bridge in Berk-shire;  
For carriage and cart to come and go clear,  
That, winters before, were soused in the mire.  
And some from their saddles flopped down to the ground,  
Or into the water, wist no man where.

Private convenience again, would set some to work. Across the moors of Glastonbury is a causeway a mile long, called Graylake's Foss, made by the abbots, chiefly for communicating with their own estates. It was no doubt through clerical influence under other circumstances, that amongst deeds of charity to which the dying were often urged, we find bequests of money *by will*, for making or repairing highways or causeys. No bad use to put it to either: when it is remembered how many centuries it takes before any country is really provided with decent roads; and how difficult it is to keep them in tolerable order when they are made. Amongst right thinking persons of this kind, was Joan Lady Bergavenny, who in 1434 devised "to the making and mending of feeble bridges and foul ways, £100."<sup>2</sup> Still greater was the zeal of Edmund Brudenell Esq., who in 1457 ordered by his will, even his gold cup, silver basins, a great piece of gilt plate with the cover, and three silver candlesticks, to be sent to the Tower of London to be melted down: to mend the highway across the heavy clay between

<sup>1</sup> Leland Itin: II. 105.

<sup>2</sup> Test. Vetusta. p. 226.

Aylesbury and Wendover. Praiseworthy too was the act of Walter Lord Hungerford who a little earlier, "for the health of the soul of the Lady Katherine his wife," first made a safe footing over Standerwick Marsh between Beckington and Warminster. Nor let Sir Ralph Verney, Knight, be forgotten, who gave £10 by will, to amend "noyous and ruinous ways," in that same rich but dirty vale of Aylesbury aforesaid.

Instances of *perpetual* endowments for the repair of roads or footpaths are by no means common. In Wilts there are only one or two. Cricklade has its "Wayland Estates," given in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, for the repair of highways about that town, and for no other purpose. These are of considerable value; consisting of about 30 houses, and 50 acres of land, worth together, in 1833, about £95 a year. And at Devizes, so late as A.D. 1641, as appears by a memorandum in a council book, John Pierce, gentleman, a chief burgess, paid £50 into the borough purse, the use thereof to be bestowed yearly at the discretion of the Mayor and Recorder, on the maintenance of the *causeways*.

The benefaction of Maud Heath was earlier than these, and if the tradition about her is true, its history is a curious one. She is said by common report to have been a market woman, who having long felt by sad experience the inconvenience of a swampy walk, especially in the conveyance of such perishable ware as butter and eggs, devoted the savings of her life to the laudable purpose of providing a good footing for her successors in all time to come. She made no will: (at least we have not been able to hear of one either in the registers at Salisbury or in London) but during her life time, about the year 1474, in the reign of K. Edw. IV., she gave to certain trustees, some houses and land in and near Chippenham to carry out her intentions. How much, if any, of the causey was finished before her death, or whether it was begun at all, we have no account.

It commences about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Chippenham, on the eastern side of the town, at the top of Bremhill Wick Hill. The hill itself is a high and pleasant ridge capped with dry iron sand, but immediately at the foot of it, upon the northern side, lies a low and flat

tract of heavy clay land, made heavier by occasional inundation of the North Wilts Avon which runs through it. There can be no doubt that to ensure safe passage for the old wives and their baskets across this plashy level, was a main point with the considerate Maud Heath. Here no doubt she had often herself had a battle with the mud: had lost many a fine fresh egg, and disappointed many a Chippenham breakfast-table, during the wars of the Roses. Over this her battle ground she was resolved to triumph, and she *has* triumphed. The stone-pitched path that has so long borne and will yet probably so much longer bear her name, continues down Wick Hill, (where indeed it does not seem to be much wanted) through the pretty village of Tytherton, (surnamed from a former owner) Kellaways, then across the perilous flats just mentioned, over a canal and then over the Avon by bridges, and so through the parish of Langley Burrell, till it lands the Bremhill adventurer safe at the town of Chippenham. Between Langley Common and Chippenham, on account of insufficient breadth of road, or for some other reason, there was until lately a considerable distance without any causey; but it is now completed the whole way.

Maud Heath being thus represented by so useful and enduring a work, might very well say, as Sir Christopher Wren is made to say within St. Pauls, "If you want to see my *monument*—look around you:" and perhaps from the peculiar circumstances of this case and the tradition belonging to it, it was not very likely that her name at all events would be forgotten, however obscure the rest of her history might become. Still, as the public memory is sometimes treacherous even towards those who have deserved more nobly of their country than Maud Heath, it was not an unwise precaution, on the part of those who took it, to set up at intervals by the wayside substantial mementos of the good deed and the worthy doer.

The verses inscribed upon these memorials are not indeed amongst the highest efforts of the muse; but they have the merit of being adapted to the purpose of being easily remembered by the common people.

The path is always described in the old documents relating to it,

as starting from Wick Hill, not from Chippenham. And so in the poetry. On a large stone at the commencement of it, near Bremhill, are these lines.

"From this WICK HILL begins the praise  
Of MAUD HEATH's gift to these highways."

At the other end, next to Chippenham, just at the point of junction of the two turnpike roads from Malmsbury and Draycote, is a second stone with this couplet:—

"Hither extendeth MAUD HEATH's gift;  
For where I stand is Chippenham cliff."<sup>1</sup>

Midway, at the bridge over the Avon, there is a third commemorative stone: a pillar about 12 feet high, erected by the feoffees in 1698, which enters more into particulars.

"To the Memory of the worthy MAUD HEATH of Langley Burrell, Spinster: who in the year of grace, 1474, for the good of travellers, did in charity bestow in land and houses about eight pounds a year, for ever, to be laid out on the highway and causey, leading from Wick Hill to Chippenham Cliff."

CHIPPENHAM  
CLIFF.

*Injure me not.*

WICK HILL.

On the several faces of the pillar are short Latin sentences, intended to be applicable both to the journey to Chippenham, and to the longer one of human life. To these, however intelligible to the *pontifices* of Langley or Bremhill, and the other learned guardians of this modern "Sublician," the late vicar of Bremhill, the Rev. W. L. Bowles, obtained leave to attach for the use of less accomplished travellers, an interpretation in the vulgar tongue.

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<sup>1</sup> It is to be presumed that this stone, being a public authority, speaks the truth; and therefore when it says "this is Chippenham Cliff," as Chippenham Cliff we must regard it. But the word is scarcely applicable to a locality almost flat. There is indeed all the way to the railway arch, a gentle slope down which a cannon ball might, or might not, roll: but there is not upon the spot, anything approaching to the abruptness of a cliff. The stone is just upon the limit of the parish of Langley Burrell, and probably has always been where it is; but had the causey been carried on to the left (still keeping within the same parish), so as to follow the *old* road towards the town, it would presently have arrived at something much more like a cliff—the steep rugged bank which overhangs the river, near the entrance to Mr. Esmeade's grounds at Monkton. And *there* it would have been a more intelligible stone.

There are three Dials. On the side facing MORNING, or the rising sun, "VOLAT TEMPUS," is thus paraphrased:—

"Oh early passenger look up, be wise:  
And think how, night and day, time TIME onward FLIES."

On the side opposite to NOON or mid-day sun, is the scriptural advice "Whilst we have time, to do good."

"QVUM TEMPUS HABEMUS, OPEREMUR BONUM."

"Life steals away— this hour, oh man, is lent thee  
Patient to work the work of him that sent thee."

The words, on the side towards EVENING, or the setting sun, though appropriate when rightly applied, seem to fit less happily the case of the ordinary passer to and fro.

"REDIBO. TU NUNQUAM."

"Haste traveller! The sun is sinking low,  
He shall return again—but NEVER THOU."

With respect to Maud Heath's real station in life, though we have so far let the current story pass, which assigns to her a rank not more exalted than that of a market woman, it is only fair to observe, that we are not aware that there is the slightest evidence or real foundation for it. Mr. Bowles repeats the tale as it was told to him; but neither he nor any one else appears to have made enquiry either for confirmation or disproof of it. Aubrey made a "Mem." to investigate the matter; but he never did so: at least he has not left us any result of his researches. In the inscription on the pillar set up at Kellaway's Bridge in 1698, and in the recital of old deeds relating to the Gift, she is described as "of Langley Burrell:" and there is no reason whatever for doubting that such was the case, so far as to its being her place of residence, probably also that of her death. But there is considerable reason for doubting the traditional story told by the parish clerk of Langley, as to a certain gravestone there, which he shows as the memorial of Maud Heath and her sister.

The alleged memorial is thus described by Aubrey, about A.D. 1670. "In the churchyard on the south side of the church, lye two sisters in a freestone *monument*. There was a canopy over them not long since taken away. These two sisters were benefactors

to the repairing the causeway towards Kailway's Bridge." Such is still the belief. The overlying slab, which is all that is left of the monument, is now reared up against the west wall of the tower close by the entrance at the south porch. It is a massive piece of freestone, about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height. In the upper part of it are cut two small trefoiled and pointed niches, within each of which is a head, now much defaced by time and weather. On the surface of the slab below each head there have been at one time floriated crosses. Part of one only is now to be seen. There is no trace of inscription.<sup>1</sup>

As to its being a monument of Maud, *and her sister*, joint benefactors to the causey, this is quite contrary to all evidence: for none of the deeds or recitals of deeds make the slightest allusion to any sister being partner in the gift, but they invariably speak of Maud, and Maud only. In the next place we are rather inclined to think that the heads are those not of *two females*, but of a *man and his wife*, which, if it is the case, puts an end to all claim of Maud to this memorial; as "the worthy benefactress" was a spinster. The heads, it is true, are much defaced: but a very close inspection will show under the chin of the face on the sinister (*i.e.* the right as you look at it), or wife's side, the distinct remnant of female dress, of which there is no trace in the other. Finally, the gravestone is of a style generally considered to be at least 100 years older than the time of Maud Heath. For these three reasons it is doubtful whether it can possibly refer to her. But be that as it may, there is no reason for doubting that she lived and probably died in the parish of Langley Burrell.

Mr. Bowles admits this, but he afterwards says that "her own parish was Bremhill." His authority for this statement he does

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<sup>1</sup> Single incised slabs of this kind, having a head introduced over the Cross, may be seen in the Churchyard of Limpley Stoke, between Freshford and Bath. Also at Monkton Farley. These particular examples are drawn in the Rev. E. Cutts's pretty and very cheap book, called "Manual of Sepulchral Slabs and Crosses of the Middle Ages." In that Volume, at Plate LXX., there is a tombstone of the double pattern (which is much more rare), very nearly resembling that at Langley Burrell.

not give: which, if he had any, is to be regretted, because it might perhaps have assisted in clearing up the darkness of her history, or might have led to something else that would have done so. But that Bremhill *was* her own proper parish we are certainly inclined to believe, and for these reasons. She must have had some interest in or connexion with that parish, (probably it was at Bremhill Wick), or why be at the pains to begin her causey so far within the bounds of it? In the next place, we have record of the name of Heath at Bremhill a few years after her death. Edward Heath was a Trustee of the causey in 1537;<sup>1</sup> and in the Wilts Musters of 1538, the *second* person in the Bremhill list of "able men" is William Heath. This perhaps does not imply that William was of higher worldly rank than that respectable, yet now not so very common one, of independent yeoman freeholder. Still, supposing Maud to have been related to these persons, this would raise her above the mere market-woman rank of the common belief. But we venture with all modesty to aspire yet a little higher on her behalf; and however loath to disturb a plausible and popular story, presume to take the liberty of expressing a very strong suspicion (for a reason to be given) that perhaps the worthy benefactress belonged after all to the class of gentlefolk. The reason is this.

There is a casual note amongst Aubrey's (sometimes very useful) memoranda, which seems to have escaped observation hitherto. It is in his description of the interior of Bremhill Church as it was to be seen in his own time, 1650-70. Mr. Bowles does not appear to have known of Aubrey's notes. At least he makes no allusion whatever to them. The windows of the aisles, says Aubrey, had once been filled with good old stained glass. Part of this was still remaining. In the north aisle the five works of mercy, as Burial of the Dead, &c., &c.; with coats of arms, amongst which those of a Robertus Russell. In the south aisle, all the windows of which had been very good, there were still left "12 lights, containing the 12 apostles, each with his symbol of the creed, and cognizance: and at the top of the eastern window of

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<sup>1</sup> See p. 261. Note.

this aisle, the figure of a man drawn in green, kneeling, like Judge Littleton, and a woman drawn by him; with the words "*Orate pro animâ Johannis HETH.*" A coat of arms was scattered about these windows, "Or, a lion rampant, double tailed, sable": and in the margin of his manuscript Aubrey writes the name *Hethe* as if it referred to this coat; though we have not been able hitherto to identify it as the shield of any family of that name.<sup>1</sup> There can be no doubt that this south aisle had been thus liberally embellished by the Johannes Heath, whose figure, drawn in green, occupied so prominent a place at the eastern end of it. And it is only a fair inference that he must have been a gentleman land-owner of the Parish of Bremhill. Therefore with this fact before us, of a family being settled there of the higher class of life, it is at any rate quite *as likely* that the benefactress to the causey belonged to *that* class, as that she was only in the more humble position, to which, in the absence of any *bonâ fide* evidence, popular gossip has consigned her.<sup>2</sup>

But this our suggestion to the contrary notwithstanding, the story of her being an old goody market-woman, or at the highest, a farm-housekeeper, is the favourite one, and is now likely to be perpetuated. For within these few years the tradition has been most substantially personified, in a bodily form and of a material that are likely to endure, as long as the causey itself shall last.

A few minutes after leaving the Chippenham Station in the Train towards London, the passenger may observe on the right hand, upon the top of a high ridge, (above-mentioned as Bremhill Wick Hill), a column standing clear against the horizon. The distance is too great to distinguish a figure at the summit; but a

<sup>1</sup> Aubrey's Collections for N. Wilts. Part 11, p. 4. Sir T. Phillipps' edition.

<sup>2</sup> If Maud had left a Will, which we fear she did not, it would have perhaps told us more of her history. The name does not occur very often at that period. All that in such a case can be done is to collect and compare such meagre notices as do occur. One thing often leads to the solution of another in a very unexpected way. There was a John Heath, Prebendary of Sarum, who died 1464, and a Richard Heath, Vicar of Chiseldon (about 15 miles from Bremhill) who died in 1474, *the very year of Maud's gift*. But there is at present nothing to identify either of them as relatives of hers.



figure there is of Maud Heath herself in the full egg-and-butter uniform, or what is presumed to be such, of temp. Edw. IV.; upon her head a heavy coiffure, in her hand a staff, and by her side a basket. And there she sits, composedly surveying the well wooded and verdant lowlands before her, from the point where "her praise begins" even to that at which it ends; and a great deal more besides. The column is of freestone, about forty feet high, octangular, upon a square pedestal: and an inscription underneath states that it was erected by Henry Marquis of Lansdowne, and William Lisle Bowles, Vicar of Bremhill, two of the Trustees. Then follow some lines by W. L. B.

"Thou who dost pause on this aerial height,  
Where MAUD HEATH'S Pathway winds, in shade or light,  
Christian wayfarer in a world of strife,  
Be still—and ponder on the path of life."

And here, having conducted the reader along her causey, to the base of Maud Heath's Statua, we leave him, if he is weary of us, to do homage to that worthy benefactress, whilst we add a short notice of

#### THE BENEFACTION.

Of the original document by which Maud Heath in 1474 gave the estate, since belonging to the Trust, we have not seen any copy. But from recitals in subsequent deeds it appears that she enfeoffed certain parties, who as they became reduced in number, appointed others. Such continues to be the practice. The Trustees have been usually chosen from the gentry and clergy connected with the Four parishes, or their immediate neighbourhood. Of the Trustees first named by herself, three seem to have been surviving in 1537, William Woodland, *Edward Heath*,<sup>1</sup> and Thomas Jefferye.

On 12th May in that year, these three appoint new Trustees: viz., Edmund Stokes (of Tytherton Kellaways), Leonard Woodland,

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<sup>1</sup> No doubt a relative of the benefactress. The Woodlands here named were a Chippenham family, who lived in what the Muster Roll of 1538 calls "The Tything of Vogan in Chippenham," by which is most probably meant the part of the town now called "Foghamshire;" Lord Hungerford's Rent Roll mentions Woodland as a Freeholder in "Foggamsheare." Jeffery was a name both at Bremhill and Langley Burrell. (Walter J. was Rector of Langley 1506—1532). Norborne was also in both Parishes.

Edward and John Wastfield, John Bond, Benedict Long (he was younger brother to Sir Robert Long of Draycote and South Wraxhall), John Gale (of Langley Burrell), John Knapp, Richard Wastfield (of Christian Malford), Richard Godwin, Sen., John Harris, William Harris, and Matthew King.

On 24th July, 1573, the seven last mentioned being dead, Edmund Stokes and the rest appoint Walter Long, Esq. (eldest son and heir of Sir Robert, and nephew of Benedict Long), Hugh Barrett, gentleman, (of Tytherton Lucas), William Norborne, Christopher Stokes, John Beryman, Jun., Henry Stafford, John Wastfield (of Langley), Walter Gale, Andrew Norborne, Henry Fernwell, Henry Newman, John Newman, William Watts *alias Heath* (of Bremhill), John Olif, Sen., William Harris, Humphrey Olif, Anthony Wastfield, and John Wastfield, Jun.

In 1611 the number had fallen to eight, among whom were Hugh Barrett, and William Watts *alias Heath*.

In 1711 the Estate had become vested in Sir George Hungerford, of Cadenham, and three others then only survivors. By a deed dated 9th October in that year, Sir James Long, of Draycote, and fifteen others were named.

The property at that time is described as consisting of—

1. A Rent-charge of 14s. for ever, arising out of two closes, called Horsecroft, situate near Wood-lane in the Parish of Chippenham.
2. A yearly Rent-charge of 9s. 4d., issuing out of a close adjoining Rowden Down Lane in the same Parish.
3. A burgage house, tenement, malthouse, garden and orchard, situate in Cook Street in Chippenham, subject to a subsisting lease, dated 1644.
4. A burgage house, tenement, and garden, situate in Cook Street, subject to a lease for 99 years, dated 14th April, 1662.
5. A burgage house, tenement, and garden in Chippenham, near the bridge, subject to a lease dated 1667.
6. A burgage house, tenement, and garden, in Mary's Street, in Chippenham, subject to a lease for 70 years, dated 15th April, 33 Charles II.
7. A burgage house, tenement, and garden, in St. Mary's Street in Chippenham, subject to a lease for 40 years, from 1706.

By the deed of 1711, the Trustees, or the survivors of them, being not less than three, are empowered to convey the premises to new Trustees.

At the time of the Charity Commissioners' inquiry, about 1834, the surviving Trustees (under the latest previous conveyance, dated 5th August 1825) were Henry, Marquis of Lansdowne; Samuel Viveash, of Calne; Dr. Starkie, of Spy Park; The Rev. William Lisle Bowles, Vicar of Bremhill; The Rev. Robert Ashe, of Langley Burrell; Robert Humphries, of Ivy House, Chippenham; John Merewether, of Blackland, near Calne; Oriel Viveash, of Calne; Thomas Clutterbuck, of Hardenhuish; Walter Coleman, of Langley Fitzurse; and John Edward Andrews Starkie, of Spy Park.

The annual value of the real and personal property belonging to the charity was then as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
1. Rent-charge on Horse Croft, <sup>1</sup> now called "The Paddock," belonging to W. H. Awdry, Esq., of Chippenham .....	0	14	0
2. Rent-charge on a close in Rowden Down Lane; Representatives of John Singer .....	0	9	4
3. Burgage house, in Embry, <sup>2</sup> John Provis; under lease for 21 years, from 6th April, 1832. Dwelling-house, two cottages, carpenter's shop, timber yard, and two messuages .....	55	0	0
4. Burgage house, in Cook Street .....	18	0	0
5. Two burgage cottages, in Mary's Street, [Clifford and Cecil, yearly tenants] .....	15	0	0
6. Burgage houses, near the bridge .....	18	0	0
	107	3	4

<sup>1</sup> This rent-charge on Nos. 1 and 2 dates from 1611. In that year a dispute had arisen between the Feoffees and John Scott. The Feoffees claimed a moiety of each of the three parcels of ground, as having been given by Maud Heath. Scott maintained that they had been part of the inheritance of one Barnes, from whom they had passed to Tyndall, by whom they were sold to John Gale. Forty years before (viz. 1671) Gale died, leaving two daughters who divided his estate. Scott married one of them and had these lands for his share. Further he shewed that the Crown having claimed them as assart lands of Chippenham Forest, he had compounded for them and taken a meane conveyance from his Majesty. To settle the dispute a commission issued from the Court of Chancery. Sir Henry Baynton, Sir Henry Poole and others met at Malmesbury, and finding that the claim of the Feoffees was doubtful, an order was made that upon a release being given to Scott, he and his heirs, &c., should pay out of the closes in question a rent-charge of 23s. 4d. per annum to the said charitable use for ever.

<sup>2</sup> A small street in Chippenham. The name is pronounced "Amary," and is no doubt a corruption of *Ave-Mary*: as in London Ave Maria Lane.

The Trustees also had five Exchequer Bills of £100 each, a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of £130 3s. 9d., and there were arrears of rent £72 5s. 8d., making a total of £702 9s. 5d.

The property was the same as that described in 1711, except that one of the houses described in 1711 as in Cook Street is in the conveyance of 1825 described as in Embry. Embry (Ave-Mary) closely adjoins Cook Street.

The money in the hands of the Trustees had arisen from savings, the excellent state of the causey requiring little to keep them in repair. About 1811 the Trustees, finding that they had sufficient funds for the purpose, raised a footway, on a chain of about 60 arches over the river Avon and meadows adjoining, to allow persons on foot and horseback to pass during the highest winter or summer floods, conceiving this to be strictly within both the letter and spirit of the charity at the time it was established. An earlier set of Trustees had widened Kellaways Bridge, and lowered and improved the road at Wick Hill. A salary of £5 a year was allowed to a Surveyor for taking care of the causey.

The property of the Trust is likely to increase in value. In the years 1852 and 1853, the Trustees completed that part of the causey which had never been made, at Pew Hill, and also built a new stone bridge with iron balustrades, and a footpath on one side, over the Avon. This bridge was opened December 9th, 1853. Mr. Henry Law, the Civil Engineer; Messrs. Rigby, Contractors.

The present Trustees are The Marquis of Lansdowne; The Earl of Shelburne; Viscount Wellesley; Rev. Robert Ashe, of Langley Burrell; Rev. Robert Martyn Ashe, ditto; Rev. Charles Grey Cotes, Stanton St. Quintin; Rev. Robert Vanbrugh Law, Rector of Christian Malford; Rev. George Thomas Marsh, Vicar of Sutton Benger; Rev. Walter Long, Rector of Tytherton Kellaways; Rev. Henry Drury, Vicar of Bremhill; Rev. Robert Kilvert, Rector of Hardenhuish; Edmund Lewis Clutterbuck, Esq., of Hardenhuish; and Walter Coleman, Esq., of Kington Langley. .

J. E. JACKSON.

Leigh-Delamere Rectory.  
July, 1854.



